GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:68
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of various commodities allocated to the States for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and the Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) during the last three years, State-wise, Year-wise and Category-wise;

(b) whether the Government has effected a cut in the allocation made to the States under PDS /TPDS/AAY and also reduced the quota for Above Poverty Line (APL) families;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor indicating the criterion applied for effecting the cut;

(d) whether this cut has led to a shortage of foodgrains in some States particularly in Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(e) if so, whether such States have requested the Government for restoration and/or additional allocation to tide over this problem; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 68 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.03.2008 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f): Commodity-wise details are as under:-

(I) FOODGRAINS: Statement on the total quantum of foodgrains allocated to the States for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) during the last three years, State-wise, Year-wise and Category -wise are at Annex-IA & IB.The allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made for BPL, AAY and APL families to all the States/UTs on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission, projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India, as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration card issued by each State/UTs, whichever is less.However, keeping in view of the declining stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, the allocation of wheat and rice under TPDS for the APL category has been rationalized with effect from June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively, on the basis of offtake figures for the previous 3 years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. While there has been no change in the allocations of foodgrains for AAY and BPL categories, which are made @ 35 kg per family per month, the allocations for APL category have been made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool, details are given in Annex.II.Several States, including the States of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have requested for additional allocation of foodgrains for APL category.Full quota of foodgrains @ 35 kgs per family per month for the accepted number of families as per entitlement of the States for the BPL and AAY categories is being allocated to the States. As for the APL allocations, in view of the requests received as well as to keep prices of foodgrains in the open market under check, rising demand during the festivals etc, the Government has made adhoc allocations of wheat under APL category for the months of September, 2006 to March, 2008 (except August 2007).Further, the allocation of APL rice for the North Eastern States and Sikkim have also been increased by 1.5 times, subject to the entitlement keeping in view their special circumstances.

(II) LEVY SUGAR: Statement showing allocation of levy sugar State-wise and year-wise for 2004-2005 to 2006-2007 sugar season (October-September) is at Annexure-IIIA.The levy sugar is supplied under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to BPL(Below Poverty Line) families in all the States/UTs except the North Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories where levy sugar is supplied to BPL and APL families with effect from 01.02.2001. Since the levy percentage has been reduced to 10% of the domestic production, the availability of sugar for levy allocation varies depending upon the levels of domestic production. Therefore, it has not been possible to supply levy sugar as per the levy quota to each State/U.T. Keeping in view the tight availability of levy sugar during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 sugar seasons and also the poor lifting of levy sugar by the State Government from the concerned sugar mills, adhoc reduction in monthly allocation of levy sugar in respect of some of the States was made. A statement is at Annexure IIIB. No reduction

has been made in the monthly levy sugar quota of Kerala and Madhya Pradesh. In case of Chhattisgarh, no allocation of levy sugar during the period February, 2006 to May, 2006 was made to Chhattisgarh. During the period June, 2006 to March, 2007 the allocation of levy sugar was made @ 2480 tonnes per month. This reduction in allocation of levy sugar was made keeping in view the poor lifting of levy sugar by the State Government from the concerned sugar mills. However, the allocation of levy sugar has been restored in full as per the quota fixed for Chhattisgarh since March, 2007 at the request of the State Government.

(III) PDS Kerosene: Statement showing allocation of PDS Kerosene State-wise and year-wise for 2004-2005 to 2006-2007 is at Annexure-IV.

In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/Union Territory. While the initial allotment for 2004-05 was based on the criteria adopted hitherto, additional allocations were made during the year to meet urgent emergent demand. For the year 2005-06, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. Allocations for first three quarters for 2007-08 have been maintained at the level of 2006-07. On the basis of a detailed study on Kerosene demand in the country and as well as to formulate a long-term pricing policy, conducted respectively through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, the Government has decided to restrict the supply of subsidized kerosene to BPL families only.